****

**Portland YouthBuilders Program and Admissions Overview**

Portland YouthBuilders (PYB) is a high school completion and job training program for young people who are ready to earn their GED or diploma, launch their careers, and change their lives. PYB serves very low income young people, aged 17 to 24 years old, who face multiple and serious barriers to academic achievement and career success. Young people entering PYB have been referred by their school districts or have already dropped out of high school.  At no cost to students, the PYB program includes:

* Academic instruction in small classes leading to a GED or high school diploma
* Hands-on job training in technology or construction leading to industry-recognized certifications
* Preparation for college, apprenticeship, and career-path employment
* Individualized counseling, career coaching, and wrap-around support
* Needs-based financial assistance, free bus pass, and small financial bonuses for achievement and leadership
* AmeriCorps membership including 450 hours of community service and an Education Award of $1,538 for future educational endeavors
* College credit for work completed at PYB
* Multi-year support and placement assistance after graduation
* Full time students receive a stipend of $200 every month (except July due to Summer Break)
* Work closely with probation and parole officers, DHS workers, Mental Health supports, and other wraparound services.

The composition of PYB’s student body is approximately 47% Caucasian, 26% Latino/a, 15% African American, 5% Native American, 4% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 3% Eastern European.

 PYB provides students with multi-year engagement including full-time programming for up to fifteen months and a minimum of one year of comprehensive support services after students are placed in college, apprenticeship, and/or employment. While the program is very rigorous and accelerated to ensure that students are prepared for success in their next step, students receive a tremendous amount of individualized support to meet these high standards.

In full-time programming, students alternate two-week rotations in the classroom and at PYB jobsites. In PYB’s Technology track, students learn coding and programming, build websites for non-profits, teach basic computer skills to seniors, and refurbish computers as a community service. PYB’s Construction track is a certified pre-apprenticeship program in which students build and renovate homes for low-income families. Students in both vocational tracks earn credentials to enhance their competitiveness in the job market, either a Bureau of Labor and Industry Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate for Construction, or CompTIA IT Fundamentals certification for Technology.

In the classroom, students receive competency-based instruction in small classes. The content-rich rigorous curriculum prepares students for postsecondary education and training (college and apprenticeship) and includes targeted instruction in PYB’s Habits for Success (non-cognitive skills needed for postsecondary and career success). Students are expected to demonstrate mastery of skills which are aligned to Common Core State Standards, GED 2014 assessment targets, and college readiness standards developed in partnership with Portland Community College. Tutoring is also available for students daily.

In addition to personalized attention in the classroom and at worksites, PYB students receive intensive wrap-around support. Every student is assigned a counselor who provides individualized guidance for barrier removal, personal stabilization, and linkage with other community resources. All students are also assigned a career coach who provides career exploration and planning, placement assistance, and post-placement support for a minimum of one year. PYB staff participate in cross-departmental case management teams that meet weekly to determine the areas of support needed to maximize student success.

Portland YouthBuilders is dedicated to supporting Portland-area school districts to achieve the best possible outcome for all students. We are proud to highlight our students’ success:

* 78% high school completion (pre-GED 2014)
* 91% attendance
* 87% placement in college, apprenticeship, and/or career-path employment
* 78% grade level gains

PYB enrolls students quarterly with entrance dates in August, November, February, and April. The first step of the application process is attendance at one of our weekly informational meetings on Thursdays at 3:30. In order to participate in PYB’s program, students must meet the following eligibility requirements:

* 17-24 years old at enrollment date
* Low income
* Legally allowed to work in the United States
* Able to pass placement testing in reading and math
* Demonstrate the motivation to work hard and make personal changes
* 17-20 year olds need approval from a partnering school district (PPS, Lake Oswego, Gresham-Barlow, Centennial, and David Douglas)
* **Please note that PYB no longer requires youth to be drug-free to enter our program.**

**For information about the application process or a specific student’s eligibility, please Rana Uzzaman at (503)286-9350 ext. 254 or** **rana.uzzaman@pybpdx.org**

Our application process has multiple steps and space is limited, so we encourage youth to apply as soon as possible!